



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors : RONALD D. BLUM et al.
Serial No. : 10/022,433
Filed : December 20, 2001
For : FLOOR MAT SUPPORT AND DRAINAGE STRUCTURE
Art Unit : 1744
Examiner : Randall E. CHIN

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449 forms. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission that the information cited is prior art, or is considered to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b). It is believed that no fees other than those indicated below are due, but authorization is hereby given to charge any additional fees due, or to credit any overpayment, to deposit account 11-0600.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a final action, Notice of Allowance, or any action that otherwise closes prosecution. Please debit Deposit Account No. 11-0600 in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p) to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

U.S. patents cited for which copies are not provided were cited in parent applications 09/553,234, 09/418,752, and 09/304,051, which are relied on for an earlier effective filing date. Accordingly, the Applicant is not required to provide copies. 37 CFR 1.98(d)(1).

A substantial number of the foreign references copies of which are provided herewith were also cited in parent applications 09/553,234, 09/418,752, and 09/304,051, and it is noted that under 37 CFR 1.98(d)(1), the Applicant is not required to provide copies. Nevertheless, copies of these foreign references are provided herewith for the convenience of the Examiner.

Other references, both U.S. patents, foreign patents and other information, copies of which are provided herewith, were cited in related U.S. or foreign applications. Accordingly, copies of the associated foreign search reports and forms 1449 are further provided herewith in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(ii).

Copies of related co-pending applications have not been provided as these are available via the Office IFW system.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

Date: Nov. 10, 2004


William E. Curry
Registration No. 43,572

KENYON & KENYON
1500 K Street, NW - Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 220-4200
(202) 220-4201 (fax)

FORM PTO-1449
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

<u>Examiner Initial</u>	<u>Patent Number</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Inventor(s)</u>
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U.S. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

<u>Examiner Initial</u>	<u>Application Number</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Inventor(s)</u>
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- _____ 2. ~~49~~ PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, vol. 1998, no. 05, 30 April 1998 (abstract of JP 10 001646 A, Nitto Denko Corp. 1-6-98)
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- _____ 4. ~~51~~ Protective Products Advertisement.
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